



TAG & RELEASE

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John Darby, Chairman of the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Advisory Board of Directors, with understated enthusiasm, accepts the Carolinas Shootout perpetual trophy for the victorious South Carolina team. The current Shootout record is SC - 6, NC - 5, GA - 1, and Mother Nature - 2. 2005 Shootout statistics are on page 3.

'MARY AGNES' WINS BOHICKET TOURNAMENT IN GOVERNOR'S CUP SERIES

The 18th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series wrapped up the fourth of five tournaments over the weekend with the Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament.

Series coordinator Tom DuPré with the S. C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) commented that, "it was another great tournament. The weather, although questionable for the first day, got better over the course of the weekend. The marina facilities were fantastic as well as the accommodating and competent staff. With great food and live entertainment each night of the tournament, the festivities were in high gear."

Eleven of the seventeen boats that entered the Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish tournament caught billfish. DuPré noted that the tournament boasted tremendous lady and youth angler participation.

Points for the Governor's Cup tournaments are awarded as follows: 300 points for a tagged or released blue marlin, 150 points for a tagged or released white marlin, and 100 points for a tagged or released sailfish. Boats are also awarded 25 participation points for each Series tournament entered, up to a maximum of three events.

For more information on the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series, contact Tom DuPré of the S.C.

Department of Natural Resources by e-mail at dupret@dnr.sc.gov or check the website at <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/>.

The Best Billfish Boat credential was awarded to "Mary Agnes," owned by HEICO Holding Co. of Downers Grove, IL and captained by Al Johnson. The crew earned 650 points for releasing three white marlin and two sailfish, and also won the first place Conservationist Award.

Based on their time of releases, second place honors went to "Caramba," owned by Bob Faith of Mt. Pleasant and captained by Dale Lackey. They amassed 600 points for two blue marlin released.

"Syked Out" won third place Billfish Boat for two blue marlin catch and releases. "Syked Out," owned by David Sykes of Isle of Palms and captained by Therrell Williams also earned 600 points during the tournament.

The Largest Wahoo award went to Allison Grooms of Charleston. She caught the 28.1-pound wahoo aboard "Dickel Daze," owned and captained by Pat Welch of Charleston.

Andy Fort won the Largest Dolphin award for reeling in a 40.7-pound dolphin on "Caramba," owned by Bob Faith of Mt. Pleasant and captained by Dale Lackey.

Chip Dukes of Charleston won top honors for his 26.9-pound blackfin tuna catch. He earned the Largest Tuna award fishing aboard "Syked Out," owned by David sykes and captained by Therrell Williams.

Keegan Kennedy of Hollywood took home top honors for first place Lady Angler award. She caught and released a blue marlin on "Sea Trace," owned and captained by her father, A.J. Kennedy, also of Hollywood.

Second place for the Lady Angler award went to Eugenie Barrow of Savannah on "Legal Holiday," owned by Fred Bergen of Savannah and captained by Matt Key. Barrow caught a

36.1-pound dolphin.

Angler Allison Grooms, aboard "Dickel Daze," won third place Lady Angler honors for her 28.1 pound wahoo catch.

The top Youth Angler Award went to Thomas Garmany, 13, of Mt. Pleasant, for a white marlin catch and release on

"Sportin' Life," owned by Manly Eubank of Charleston and captained by Thomas' father, Bobby Garmany.

Fontaine Bergen, 12, of Savannah, won second place Youth Angler honors for a 25.5-pound dolphin aboard "Legal Holiday," also the boat winning the previously mentioned second place

Lady Angler.

Charlie Aimar, 15, of Charleston won the third place Youth Angler award. He caught a 20.9-pound dolphin on "Blue Boy," owned and captained by Douglas Heaton of Charleston.

-Written by Anna Martin-



'HOME RUN' WINS MEGADOCK BILLFISHING TOURNAMENT IN GOVERNOR'S CUP SERIES

The South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series ended its 18th season over the Fourth of July holiday weekend with 'Home Run' winning the Charleston City Marina's HMY/Viking Megadock Billfish Tournament.

The final tournament was a big hit on many levels, and S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Series Coordinator Tom DuPré noted that, "The facilities were top-notch, and the tournament staff did a superlative job to put on an outstanding event." A tournament record for the number of anglers catching billfish was also reached, which DuPré said stemmed from "absolutely fantastic fishing. Many of the participating anglers commented that they had not experienced such excellent fishing conditions as were found that weekend out on the water."

Over the course of the MegaDock tournament, 81 boats participated and fished two out of three days. 131 billfish were released, which surpasses the Series record of 90 billfish caught during the 1999 Charleston Harbor Marina & Resort Billfish Tournament. The billfish record included 31 blue marlin, 37 white marlin and 63 sailfish. Last year's MegaDock tournament netted 82 billfish releases. No billfish that were caught were brought to the dock during this year's MegaDock tournament.

Points for the Governor's Cup tournaments are awarded as follows: 300 points for a tagged or released blue marlin, 150 points for a tagged or released white marlin, and 100 points for a tagged or released sailfish. Boats are also awarded 25 participation points for each Series tournament entered, up to a maximum of three events.

The crew of 'Home Run' won top honors earning 1300 points for catching and releasing 2 blue marlin and 7 sailfish. 'Home Run' is owned by Steven Mungo of Columbia and captained by Grant Bentley. Crewmember Bennett Griffin reeled in 2 blue marlin and 6 sailfish, and owner Steven Mungo caught 1 sailfish

for the winning team.

Second place for Best Billfish Boat went to 'Bentley's Best,' owned by Steven Deese of Lexington, and captained by Jimmy Moore. 'Bentley's Best' caught and released 3 blue marlin, 1 white marlin, and 1 sailfish to earn 1150 points.

Third place for Best Billfish Boat was awarded to 'Blue Sky,' owned by Greg Smith, for catching and releasing 2 blue marlin and 3 white marlin to earn 1050 points.

The Outstanding Wahoo Award went to Rusty Carter's 'Stream Weaver,' for a 79.6-pound wahoo catch by angler David Thomas.

Thomas McCook's 'ShorterPie' won top honors for Outstanding Dolphin for a 54.0-pound dolphin caught by angler Paul Thompson.

Honors for the most Outstanding Tuna was awarded to John Cagle's 'Juncanewt' for a 46.4-pound yellowfin tuna caught by angler Rick Link.

Libby Kosnik won first place for the Outstanding Female Angler Award for a blue marlin and a sailfish catch and release on 'Special Lady,' owned by her father Ed Kosnik. She earned 400 points to win the award.

The second place Outstanding Female Angler Award went to Morgan Montgomery onboard Doug Hinson's 'High Current' for amassing 300 points for her blue marlin catch and release.

Third place Outstanding Female Angler Award was awarded to Whitney Jeffrey, who earned 300 points for a blue marlin catch and release on Ed Renken's 'Sea Fox.'

The Outstanding Youth Angler during the MegaDock tournament was 14-year old Al DeLeon, on board his father Al DeLeon's boat 'Emotional Rescue,' for catching and releasing 4 sailfish. He earned 400 points to win top honors.

Morgan Montgomery, 11, finished in second place in the Outstanding Youth Angler category. Montgomery released a blue marlin to earn 300 points on Doug Hinson's 'High Current.'

Third place honors for the Outstanding Youth Angler was awarded to Hunter Clifton, 11, who earned 100 points for a sailfish release onboard 'Yo Yo,' owned by his father Kenneth Clifton.

In addition to the MegaDock results, DuPré tallied the results for the 2005 Shootout Tournament. South Carolina,

with 1550 points, won this year's award against North Carolina, who tallied 450 points. South Carolina's participants included 'Chicora,' 'Houdini,' 'Petrel,' 'Rascal,' and 'Rookie IV.' North Carolina participants included 'Desperado,' 'Instigator,' 'Reel Love,' and 'Stream Weaver.'

From the South Carolina team, 'Chicora' released 3 sailfish; 'Houdini' released a blue marlin, a white marlin, and a sailfish; 'Rascal' released a blue marlin and a sailfish; and 'Rookie IV' released 2 white marlin. From the North Carolina team, 'Desperado,' 'Instigator,' and 'Reel Love' each released a white marlin.

Boats participating in the Series amass points for billfish that have been either landed, tagged, or released. Anglers compete for four major awards: Outstanding Billfish (single heaviest billfish), Outstanding Billfish Boat (most accumulated points) and Outstanding Billfish Conservationist (most points for tagged or released fish), and the Blue Water Conservation Award (most accumulated tag and release points for dolphin, wahoo, and yellowfin tuna).

By encouraging live tag and release, the Series has focused attention on the sharp decline of Atlantic billfish and encouraged conservation of all marine resources.

For more information on the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series, contact Tom DuPré by e-mail at dupret@dnr.sc.gov or check the website at <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/>.

-Written by Anna Martin-





19TH ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Outstanding Billfish Boat

Points: 4 Blues, 4 Whites,
3 Sailfish all released
2175 pts

Boat: *Caramba*

Owner: Robert A. Faith

Captain: Dale Lackey

Outstanding Billfish Conservationist

Points: 4 Blues, 4 Whites,
3 Sailfish all released
2175 pts

Boat: *Caramba*

Owner: Robert A. Faith

Captain: Dale Lackey

Blue Water Conservation

Points: 27 Dolphin (tagged)
1350 pts

Boat: *Houdini*

Owner: Jim Shannon

Captain: Wayne Skinner

Outstanding Billfish

No eligible fish

Outstanding Dolphin

Weight: 59.6 lbs

Boat: *Bak Bar*

Owner: Bak Bar Marine Group

Angler: Chris Tucker

Outstanding Yellowfin Tuna

Weight: 54.7 lbs

Boat: *Hattitude*

Owner: Steve Chryst

Angler: Steve Chryst

Outstanding Wahoo

Weight: 79.6 lbs

Boat: *Stream Weaver*

Owner: Rusty Carter

Angler: David Thomas

1st Place Outstanding Lady Angler

Fish: 1 Wahoo landed, 1 Blue,
1 White, 1 Sail all released

Boat: *Sea Trace*

Owner: A.J. Kennedy

Angler: Keegan Kennedy

2nd Place Outstanding Lady Angler

Fish: 1 Blue, 1 Sail all released

Boat: *Special Lady*

Owner: Ed Kosnik

Angler: Libby Kosnik

3rd Place Outstanding Lady Angler

Fish: 1 Blue released

Boat: *Syked Out*

Owner: David Sykes

Angler: Holly McAlhany

1st Place Outstanding Youth Angler

Fish: 4 Sailfish released

Boat: *Emotional Rescue*

Owner: Michael DeLeon

Angler: Al DeLeon

2nd Place Outstanding Youth Angler

Fish: 1 Blue released

Boat: *Dough Boy*

Owner: Ben Dantzler, Jr.

Angler: Kasey Dantzler

3rd Place Outstanding Youth Angler

Fish: 1 Blue released

Boat: *Caramba*

Owner: Bob Faith

Angler: Bobby Faith



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The S.C. Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division reminds the public of Coast Watch, which was developed to better help citizens report violations of saltwater recreational and commercial fishing laws, as well as marine environmental laws.

The Coast Watch hotline number (1-800-922-5431) is toll-free and available 24 hours a day.